



THE GIVERS GALA



RIPPLE EFFECT  
awards

## Givers Gala 2025: A Night of Impact Celebrating Hawai‘i Island’s Nonprofit Heroes and the Power of Giving!

On October 24, 2025, Hawai‘i Island United Way hosted its first Givers Gala at the Arc of Hilo—a night of local flavors, community, and inspiring stories of impact. The highlight was the Ripple Effect Awards, honoring changemakers who strengthen our island ‘ohana. We can’t wait for Givers Gala 2026!



Peanut Butter Ministry Accepts Dream Team Award

### The Givers Gala 2025 Numbers:

- 👤 216 guests gathered in celebration
- 🐾 3 canine guests added extra joy
- 💰 \$4,000 raised for HIUW during the paddle raise
- 🍰 250 delicious desserts enjoyed
- 🛍️ 3 bags of household goods for our Furniture Bank
- ✨ Endless positive vibes



# Celebrating the Ripple Effect Awardees at the 2025 Givers Gala



Mauna Kea Education and Awareness Program Director, Pua Case, accepts The Social Justice, Good Trouble Award



Humanity Hale's Charis Higginson accepts Human Spark Plug, Energizer Award



Ripple Effect Awardees from left: Aloha 'Ilio Rescue's Daylynn Kyles, Mauna Kea Education and Awareness' Pua Case, Bridge House's Zee Zaidoff, West Hawai'i Mediation's Eric Paul, Full Life's Ian Kow, and Peanut Butter Ministry's Barbara Meguro



KōCreate accepts Bold Moves Game Changer Award



West Hawai'i Mediation accepts Mission Mastery Award



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT & CPO, JESS THOMPSON

Aloha Friends

As 2025 comes to a close, I'm filled with gratitude for the incredible progress we've made together. This year has been a testament to the strength of Hawai'i Island's nonprofit community and the generosity of those who believe in the Power of Giving.

## Here's a look back at what we accomplished in 2025:

- Launched the Hawai'i Island Nonprofit Network, including:
- Funding 25 nonprofits and 30+ programs through Community Impact Grants
- Launching the Hawai'i Island Furniture Bank
- Hosting the first-ever Givers Gala where we celebrated nonprofit heroes with the Ripple Effect Awards.
- Strengthened our Workplace Campaign, including launching our first ever online campaign option for workplace campaigns.

None of this would have been possible without you—our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your generosity fuels every program, every partnership, and every act of giving.

## The Urgent Need Ahead

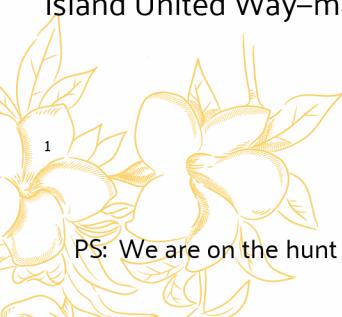
While we celebrate these milestones, the reality is clear: demand for services is rising faster than resources. Hawai'i Island families need housing support, nonprofits need more opportunities to collaborate, and our community needs to strengthen programs that uplift health, education, and financial stability. **To keep these programs alive—and to expand them in 2026—we urgently need your help. Every dollar you give ensures that essential services continue for those who need them most.**

## How You Can Get Involved

- Donate today to sustain and grow programs that change lives.
- Volunteer your time with our Furniture Bank or upcoming campaigns.
- Join us as a sponsor or attendee at next year's Givers Gala.
- Become a Workplace Campaign partner and inspire giving in your organization.
- Spread the word about the Hawai'i Island United Way and invite others to connect.

Together, we'll keep building momentum for a stronger Hawai'i Island. From all of us at Hawai'i Island United Way—mahalo for making 2025 a year of impact and hope.

*With gratitude,  
Jess Thompson*



PS: We are on the hunt for the data regarding the number of nonprofit employees on Hawai'i Island specifically! Email me at [cpo@hiuw.org](mailto:cpo@hiuw.org) if you have information!

# HIUW Program Incubator: HAWAII ISLAND FURNITURE BANK



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Looking for volunteers to donate 2 hours a week to sort and organize donations to furniture bank.

Email [info@hiuw.org](mailto:info@hiuw.org) for more information!

## SMALL FURNITURE NEEDED

We are in need of small, gently used furniture, such as kitchen tables, coffee tables, side tables, chairs of all kinds, dressers, etc...

Contact [info@hiuw.org](mailto:info@hiuw.org) for info.

## August to December 2025 Furniture Bank Impact

Number of Families Welcomed:

- 5

Number of Items Distributed:

- 7 Blankets
- 12 pots and pans
- 29 dish sets
- 32 utensil sets
- 3 laundry baskets
- 2 lamps
- 3 coffee tables
- 5 arm chairs
- 1 kitchen tables
- 2 kitchen chairs
- 3 dressers





# 2025-2026 Campaign

## **It's Not Too Late to Make an Impact!**

The 2025-2026 Hawai'i Island United Way Campaign is still going strong – and your gift can help us finish the year with hope and momentum. **Every dollar you give stays local, supporting programs that strengthen health, education, and financial stability for families across our island.**

### **Ways to Give Today:**

Online Donations – Visit <http://www.hiuw.org> for one-time or recurring gifts.

Workplace Campaigns – Rally your team for a cause that matters.

Email [campaign@hiuw.org](mailto:campaign@hiuw.org) to get started.

It's never too late to show what aloha looks like in action. Let's close out 2025 strong – together!

Questions? Contact us at [campaign@hiuw.org](mailto:campaign@hiuw.org) or call 808-935-6393.